

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY



The San Joaquin Valley Region:

- *Supplies 45 percent of the nation's fruits and vegetables.*
- *Has the three largest agricultural counties in the Nation based on gross receipts.*
- *Provides drainage for seven major Sierra Nevada rivers.*
- *Provides major resting areas for the Pacific flyway waterfowl.*
- *Contains 12 different groundwater basins - six are subject to critical overdraft.*
- *Anticipates population to double in the next 20 years.*

Innovative Partnerships

The San Joaquin Valley is rich in agricultural and natural resources. CALFED agencies are contributing to local initiatives aimed at restoring and enhancing ecological, water supply, and water quality resources. Ongoing programs in the region include:

- State and federal resource agencies are working with landowners and local irrigation districts to restore the ecological health of the valley's rivers, particularly on the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers.
- DWR is working with local groundwater management agencies to investigate the potential for aggressive conjunctive use programs.
- San Joaquin River watershed interests are working with agencies to develop long-term solutions to solve the dissolved oxygen deficit in the lower San Joaquin River and improve water quality conditions.

Regional Priorities and Issues

- Expand existing or construct new facilities to increase water supply reliability, improve water quality, and contribute to restoration in the San Joaquin River.
- Develop and support locally managed conjunctive use programs.
- Recover at-risk native species by restoring habitat and rehabilitating natural riverine processes.
- Contribute to improved public health by improving water quality, particularly in the lower San Joaquin River.

Statewide Benefits

As progress is being made on improving local water supply reliability, water quality, and the health of the ecosystem, these regional actions provide benefits to the state as a whole, including:

- Reducing Delta demand during critical periods by increasing the use of groundwater storage (e.g., Kern Water Bank).
- Improving tributary ecosystems contribute to improving the overall health of the estuary and its native species.
- Improving regional water quality in the San Joaquin River and its tributaries reduces the need for high quality water from the Delta.
- Investing in local efforts to restore watersheds contributes to the overall environmental and economic health of the region.
- Increasing utility of water supplies by streamlining water transfers and investing in local water use efficiency projects reduces regional demands on the Delta.



Photo courtesy of the CA Farm Water Coalition

Regional Accomplishments



Water Supply Reliability

- \$77 million invested in 55 local projects to improve groundwater management and expand groundwater storage in the San Joaquin Valley, with a potential water supply yield of 94,500 acre-feet annually.
- \$8.6 million invested in agricultural water conservation programs that will save 8,524 acre-feet of water per year. Another \$3.1 million invested in local urban conservation programs.
- Milestones adopted for agricultural conservation to help evaluate regional progress and identify barriers to implementation.
- Progress made on developing an on-farm water efficiency incentive program with significant public input.
- Water supply reliability improved and conflicts over Delta exports reduced through Environmental Water Account actions.
- 70 percent water supply delivery target achieved for CVP contractors.
- Progress made on Upper San Joaquin River Basin storage studies, one of five potential surface storage projects currently under evaluation.



Water Quality

- More than \$33 million invested in 20 projects, including implementation of best management practices and other types of projects which contribute to reducing salinity in the San Joaquin River.
- A basin plan amendment for the control of salinity and boron in the lower San Joaquin River was completed. A group of stakeholders have formed the San Joaquin River Water Quality Management Group to implement projects to meet the objectives.
- \$11 million provided for 8 projects to address water quality issues in the San Joaquin region, which includes \$2.7 million to address selenium and salinity from the Grasslands district, including development of a real-time monitoring system and a pilot-scale treatment project.



Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management

- 20 projects funded for approximately \$9 million in the San Joaquin region for local groups to improve water quality and enhance watershed stewardship.
- \$96 million invested in 53 local ecosystem projects, including 16 channel dynamics and sediment transport projects and dissolved oxygen monitoring and investigations in the San Joaquin River and tributaries.
- Funding provided for 7 watershed coordinators to assist with community based management efforts within the region.